

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00

DPW-01 AF-06 ARA-10 NEA-09 VOE-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /108 W

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O R 180136Z APR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9930

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, CB, UN, UNHCR, UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNSYG PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 17 -INDOCHINA RELIEF

1. IN PLACE REGULAR UN OPI PRESS BRIEFING UNSYG WALDHEIM HELD
PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 17. HE READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON INDOCHINA
RELIEF:
QUOTE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM IN
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PARIS IN FEBRUARY 1973, I EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS STOOD

READY TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT WAS CALLED UPON TO OFFER USEFUL AND REALISTIC ASSISTANCE. AT THAT TIME I ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT "SHOULD THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AREA SO DESIRE, THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN RECEIVING, CO-ORDINATING

AND CHANNELLING INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF THE AREA. SUCH AID WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PROVIDED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND"

EVER SINCE THAT TIME THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM HAS BEEN OPERATING ON THIS BASIS, PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION WHEREVER AND WHENEVER REQUESTED. IT HAS PERSEVERED SUCCESSFULLY IN THIS TASK DESPITE THE MILITARY SITUATION WHICH OBVIOUSLY MAKES IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THIS WAR.

ON 31 MARCH, I APPEALED TO ALL CONCERNED TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN THERE MEANS TO RELIEVE THE PLIGHT OF INNOCENT PERSONS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED. I ALSO EARNESTLY REQUESTED THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES ON ALL SIDES OF THE FIGHTING TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO LIMIT THE SUFFERING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK, I MET IN ROME WITH THE HEADS OF ALL UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES WHO FULLY ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED THE INITIATIVES I HAD TAKEN TO MOBILIZE INCREASED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT INDO-CHINA. AT THIS SAME TIME, I APPOINTED SIR ROBERT JACKSON, WHOSE LONG AND COMPREHENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD IS WELL KNOWN, TO CO-ORDINATE AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ALL EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO THIS HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY. IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), WHICH HAVE HAD CONTINUING PROGRAMMES OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT IN INDO-CHINA, ARE INTENSIFYING THEIR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS IN INDO-CHINA.

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM HAS ACTED VIGOROUSLY, POSITIVELY AND SPONTANEOUSLY TO DO ALL WITHIN ITS POSSIBILITIES TO BE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLES OF INDO-CHINA. THERE HAS BEEN NO HESITATION WHATEVER, ON MY OWN PART OR THE PART OF ANY ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE.

ALTHOUGH EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS HAVE EVOLVED SO RAPIDLY THAT IT HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS WITH PRECISION EMERGENCY NEEDS IN SPECIFIC AREAS, IT IS OBVIOUS

THAT SUFFERING IS CONTINUING AND FAR GREATER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS VITALLY AND URGENTLY NEEDED. AT THIS MOMENT, PERSONNEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ARE WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK IN THE FIELD AND AT HEADQUARTERS, IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN WHAT SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED MOST URGENTLY, AND TO DETERMINE HOW SUPPLIES CAN BEST BE TRANSPORTED TO AREAS WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO DELIVER THEM. AS EACH

DAY PASSES, WE SHOULD GET A CLEARER PICTURE OF JUST WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHERE IT IS NEEDED.

VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS HAVE ASKED ME TO STATE WHAT I WOULD CONSIDER, AT THIS TIME, TO BE RESPONSIBLE TARGET FIGURE FOR ESSENTIAL NEEDS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, I BELIEVE THAT IN THE IMMEDIATE PHASE \$100 MILLION IS NEEDED TO MEET ESSENTIAL, AND I REPEAT ESSENTIAL, REQUIREMENTS, EXCLUDING BULK FOOD SUPPLY.

I THEREFORE URGENTLY RENEW MY APPEAL TO ALL WHO MAY BE IN A POSITION TO HELP TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR MEANS TO RELIEVE THE PLIGHT OF THE MILLIONS WHO ARE SUFFERING IN INDO-CHINA. I SHALL NEVER CEASE IN MY OWN EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS PLAYS ITS ESSENTIAL ROLE IN HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF WAR AND DISASTER.

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